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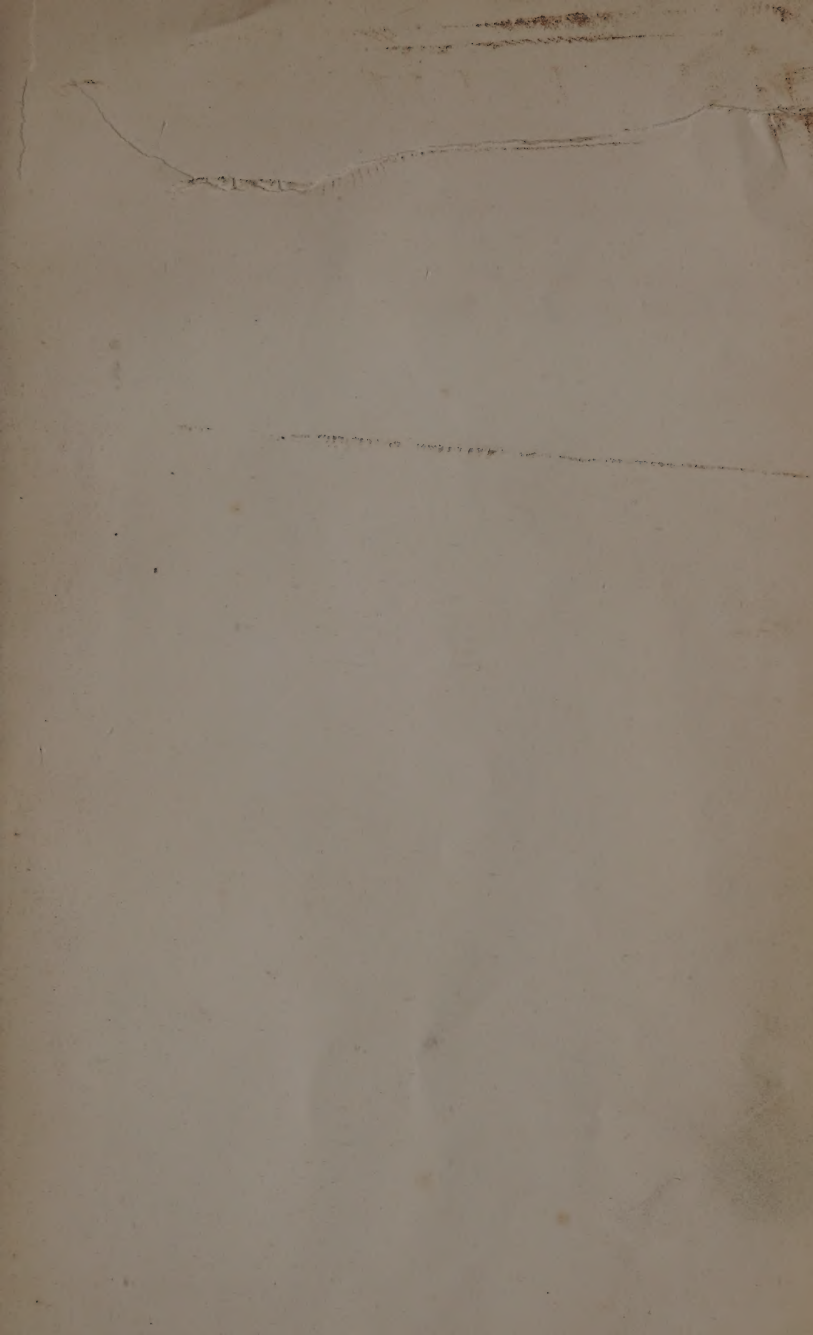
MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON

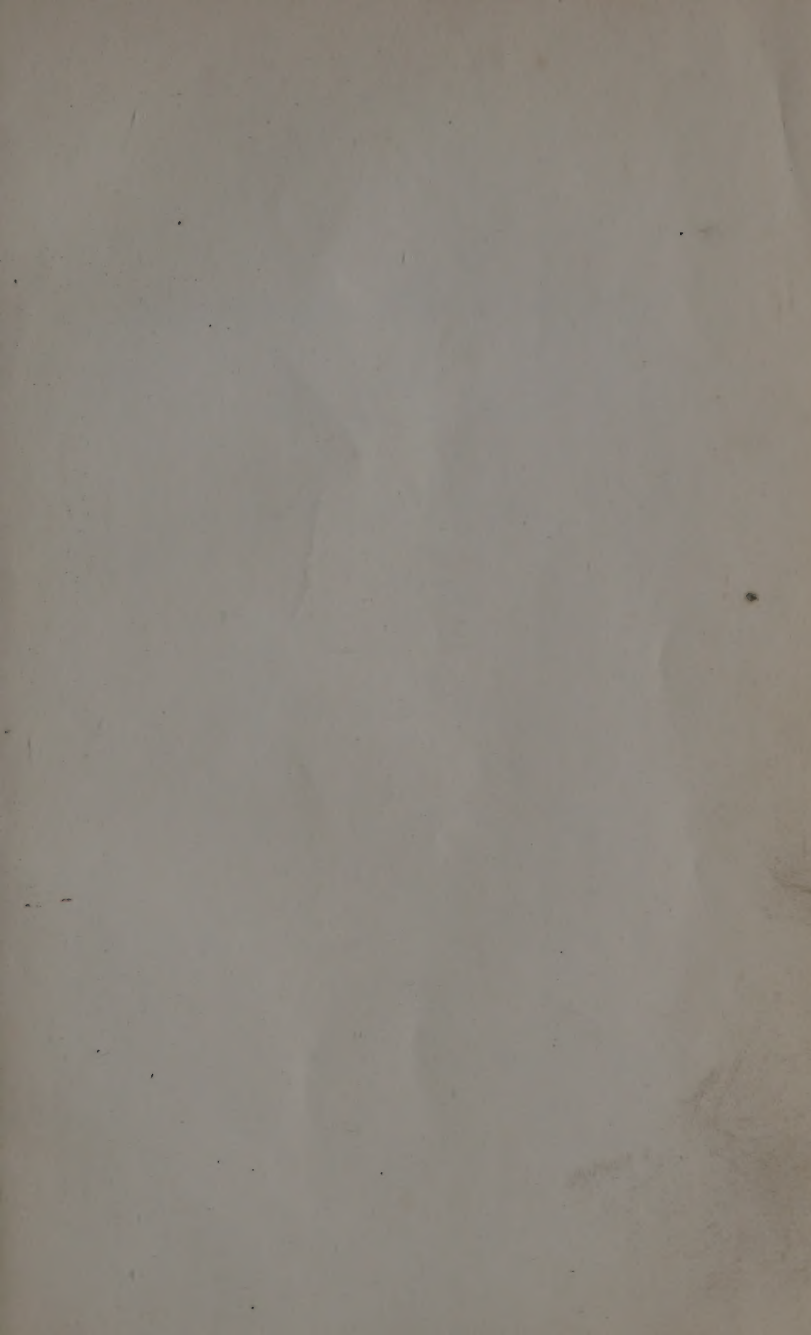


ACCESSION NUMBER

PRESS MARK

WESTMINSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY





L A W S

OF THE

Westminster Medical Society,

INSTITUTED A.D. 1809,

FOR THE ADVANCEMENT

OF

MEDICAL SCIENCE.

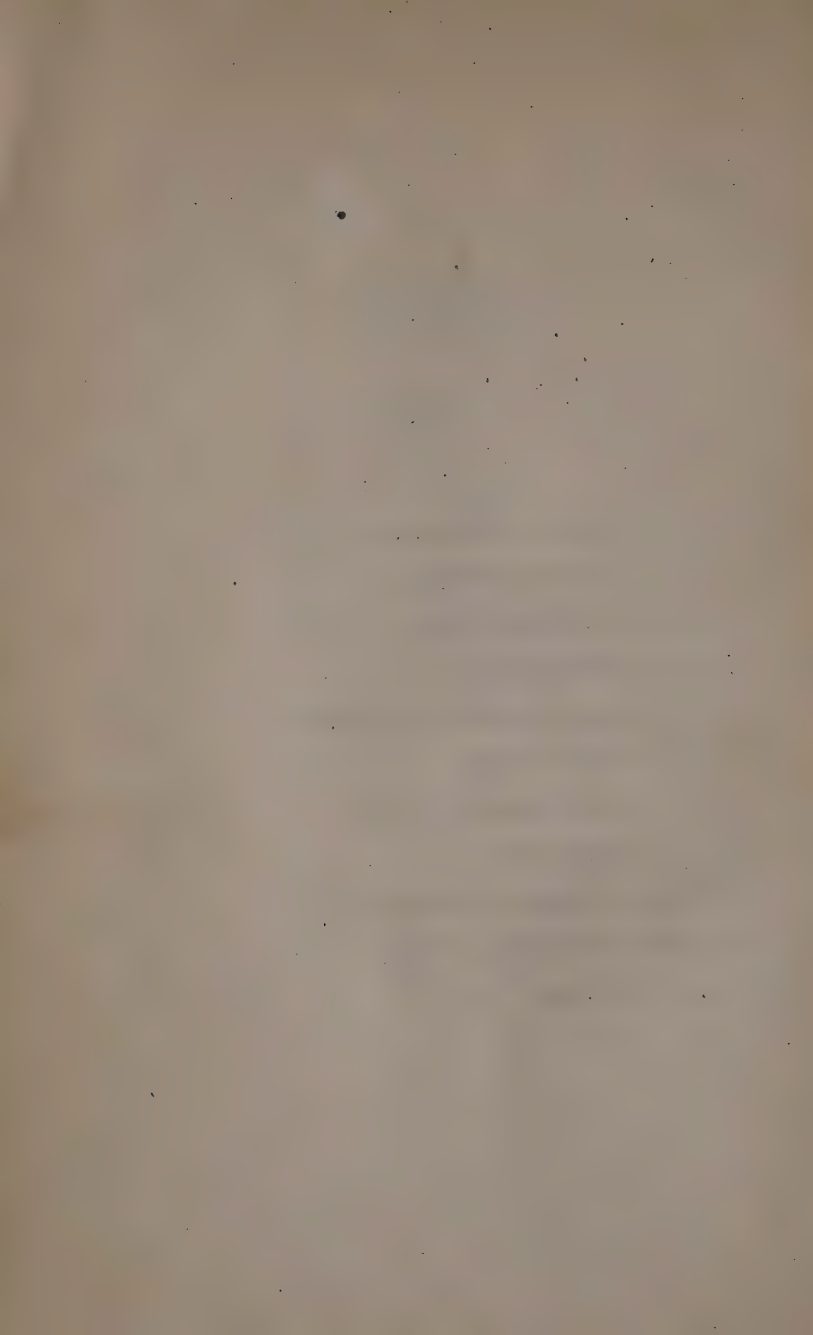
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L A W S, &c.

SECTION I.

OBJECTS AND GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY.

1. THE objects of the society are the advancement and diffusion of Medical knowledge.
2. The Society shall consist of one President, four Vice Presidents, a Treasurer, two Honorary Secretaries, and Fellows. The Fellows shall consist of two classes, Honorary and Ordinary.
3. The Government of the Society shall be entrusted to a Council ; from whose determination an appeal may be made to the Society at large, according to the form hereafter specified.

SECTION II.

OF ORDINARY FELLOWS.

4. All duly qualified practitioners, or registered pupils, are eligible as ordinary Fellows.

5. Gentlemen wishing to become Fellows of the Society shall present a written recommendation, signed by at least three Fellows, according to the following form :—

" We, the undersigned, do, from our personal knowledge, re-commend * residing at

as an Ordinary Fellow of The Westminster Medical Society."

(Date.) (Signed)

• Here insert the Candidate's name, and qualification, whether a Practitioner or Student of Medicine, &c., &c.

6. This Certificate being presented at any Ordinary Meeting to the President, it shall be read by him to the Society; and notice shall be given from the Chair, that the ballot for the Candidate thus proposed will take place at the next Ordinary Meeting, when, if two-thirds of the votes be in his favour, he shall be considered as duly elected, and his election announced by the President.

7. Each Fellow thus elected, shall receive notice thereof from the Secretary, and shall, at the time of his admission, pay to the Secretary the sum of One Guinea.

8. Previously to taking his seat in the Society, the newly-elected Fellow shall subscribe an obligation to obey the laws, by writing his name, in the presence of the Society, in a book kept by the Secretary for that purpose; after which, he shall be introduced to the President, by the Hon. Secretary, or by one of the Gentlemen who signed his Certificate, and the President shall formally admit him on behalf of the Society.

9. If the newly-elected Fellow neglect to pay his admission fee within One Month from the time of his election, the same shall be declared void, unless a reason, satisfactory to the Council, be given in writing.

10. A Candidate once rejected, may be proposed again during the same Session; but if twice rejected, he shall not be eligible until the following Session.

11. Only ordinary Fellows residing within three miles from Trafalgar Square, shall be required to pay the Annual Subscription.

12. All resident Fellows (except Pupils) shall subscribe One Guinea Annually towards the Funds of the Society. The Subscription shall be paid in advance, and shall be due on the first day of October in each year: but Fellows

elected subsequently to the nomination of office bearers in February, shall not be called on to subscribe beyond the admission fee, till the October in the following year.

13. Medical Pupils shall not be required to subscribe beyond the admission fee.

14. Whenever a Fellow shall be one year in arrear in the payment of his Annual Subscription, the Treasurer shall write to him in the following form :

“ Sir—I am directed by the Council of the Westminster Medical Society to inform you that the sum of _____ was due on account of your Annual Subscription, on the first day of October last, the payment of which, as early as possible, is hereby requested.

I have also to inform you, that to save trouble, the Collector has been desired to call upon you.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Treasurer.

15. If the arrears be not paid within two months after the forwarding of such letter, the Treasurer shall report such default to the Council, who shall erase the name of such defaulter from the list of Fellows.

16. Any Fellow may withdraw from the Society on writing to that effect to the Council, but he shall be considered liable to pay his Subscription for the current year.

17. The power of expelling a Fellow from the Society rests with the Fellows at large.

18. The proceedings for the expulsion of a Fellow shall be as follow :—If there should appear cause in the opinion of the Council, or if a requisition has been signed by six Fellows and presented to the Council, for the expulsion from the Society of any Fellow, a Special General Meeting of the Fellows shall be called by the Council within

one month for that purpose; and if two-thirds of the Fellows then present be in favor of the expulsion, (the votes being taken by ballot) the Fellow shall be considered as expelled, and his name be publicly erased by the President from the list of Fellows.

19. Any three Fellows desirous of suggesting alterations in the laws, regulations, or management of the Society, may communicate their views in writing, with their reasons, to the Council, who shall take them into consideration at a Special Meeting to be summoned for that purpose.

20. Any six Fellows may appeal to the Society at large against the decisions of the Council, according to the form enacted in Section IX.

SECTION III

OF HONORARY FELLOWS.

21. Physicians and Surgeons of eminence are eligible as Honorary Fellows. Their nomination may proceed either from the Council, or from three Fellows of the Society, the approval of the Council having been previously obtained. The nomination shall be read from the chair at any Ordinary Meeting of the Society, and the ballot for the election take place at the next Ordinary Meeting, when three-fourths of the votes must be in favour of the Candidate.

SECTION IV.

OF THE OFFICERS.

22. The Officers of the Society shall consist of one President, four Vice-Presidents, one Treasurer, two Honorary Secretaries, and a Council of ten Fellows.

23. The President, two Vice-Presidents, and five Members of the Council, shall annually retire from office according to seniority, on the election of their successors being confirmed, and shall not be eligible for re-election during one year.

24. The nomination of the above-named Office bearers shall take place at the second Meeting in the month of February, and their election at the third.

25. The Hon. Secretaries shall collect the written votes of the Fellows present, and the balloting urn shall be kept open until a quarter before ten o'clock, when the President shall appoint two Scrutineers, who, with one of the Honorary Secretaries, shall retire, and make a return of the number of votes for each Candidate to the President, who shall then declare the result of the election.

SECTION V.

OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENTS.

26. The President shall take the chair at all Meetings of the Society, shall preserve order during the Meetings, and shall perform the other duties connected with his office.

27. In the absence of the President, one of the Vice Presidents shall officiate in his stead.

28. The authority of the President at the Ordinary and Special Meetings of the Society, in relation to the interpretation of the Laws, and upon all points of order, shall be decisive.

29. But should either the President on his part, or any three Fellows on the part of the Society, desire such interpretation to be referred to the Council for consideration, it shall be allowable for him or them so to refer it.

30. Should the interpretation be referred by the President, he shall give notice of his intention from the Chair prior to his vacating it for the evening; and if by any three Fellows, they shall give notice of their intention to the President, and he shall read the said notice forthwith from the Chair.

31. In either case, a notice shall be sent to each Member of the Council three clear days prior to their next Meeting, to inform them of the question referred to them.

32. The decision of the Council shall be announced from the Chair at the following Ordinary Meeting of the Society, prior to the reading of any paper, the detail of any case, or the commencement of any discussion.

SECTION VI.

OF THE TREASURER.

33. The Council shall annually, in October, appoint one of the Fellows to act as Treasurer; he shall receive from the Hon. Secretaries all money paid to the Society, and defray therefrom the expenses incurred during the Session.

34. No expenses to the amount of more than One Guinea shall be incurred by the Treasurer, without the previous order of the Council.

35. The Council shall, annually, at the Ordinary Meeting in January, elect two Fellows of the Society to audit the accounts of the Society up to the preceeding 31st day of December, and the accounts, so audited, shall be laid before the Council at the Ordinary Meeting in February.

36. An abstract of the accounts shall be laid before the Society on the second Saturday in February, and be read by the President before nine o'clock.

SECTION VII.

OF THE HONORARY SECRETARIES.

37. The Council shall annually, in October, appoint two of the Fellows to execute the office of Secretaries. Both their names shall appear in all printed papers.

38. One of the Hon. Secretaries shall be present at every Meeting of the Society and Council ; should both be absent, they shall be amenable to the censure of the Council, and for continued neglect, may be removed from their Office.

39. It shall be the duty of the Hon. Secretaries to take minutes of the proceedings of the Council and Society, and to transact such other business as the Council may direct : they shall be authorised to pay the postage of all letters sent on the business of the Society.

40. At every Meeting of the Society and Council, a copy of the Laws, and a list of the Fellows must be laid upon the table ; and the Hon. Secretaries shall be held responsible that a *complete* copy of the Laws and list of the Fellows be at all times kept in readiness for immediate reference.

SECTION VIII.

OF THE COUNCIL.

41. The Council shall consist of eighteen Members, three of whom shall form a quorum.

42. The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, and Honorary Secretaries, shall be *ex officio* Members of the Council : the other ten Members shall be elected by the Society, as enacted in Section IV.

43. The Council shall assemble at eight o'clock, p.m., on the first Thursday in every month, from October to May, both inclusive.

44. Special Meetings of the Council may be called by the President, or by any three Members of the Council; and the Hon. Secretary shall issue summonses, at their desire, giving at least three days' notice.

45. The appointment of Treasurer and Hon. Secretaries, the general management of the concerns of the Society the enforcement of its Laws, their revision and amendment, shall rest with the Council; but no change in the Laws of the Society shall be made by the Council, unless a majority, consisting of not less than seven Members, be in favour of the measure; a notice in writing, stating the alteration proposed, having been previously sent to every Member of the Council.

46. When any alteration in the Laws of the Society has been agreed upon by the Council, the same shall be read to the Society from the Chair, before nine o'clock, at two successive Ordinary Meetings; and the proposed alteration shall become a Law of the Society when it has been thus twice publicly read, without an appeal being lodged against it. If, however, an appeal, signed by at least three Fellows, be delivered to the President, at either of the two Meetings above-named, he shall take the sense of the Society, as to the convention of a Special Meeting, according to the usual form; at which, should the majority of the Fellows present be averse to the change, the proposed Law shall be declared by the President to be null and void.

47. The Council have not the power to alter the place of the Meetings of the Society, except with the sanction of a General Meeting of the Society.

48. At the Ordinary Meeting in October the Council shall consider the measures to be taken for summoning the first Ordinary Meeting of the Society, and arrange the printing and circulating cards of information, relative to the nights of Meeting, and the subjects for discussion ; and at the meeting in May take steps for the discharge of all debts incurred by the Society.

49. The Council may, if they think fit, at the termination of each Session, prepare a short statement of the proceedings of the Society, and print the same for distribution, together with a list of the Officers and Fellows.

SECTION IX.

OF APPEALS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS.

50. The Fellows have the right of appeal from any act of the Council, to the Society at large.

51. An Appeal to the Society must be signed by three or more Fellows, and delivered to the President before nine o'clock, who shall read it from the Chair ; and should the Appeal not be withdrawn before nine o'clock on the ensuing Ordinary Meeting, the President shall then take the sense of the Society, whether or not a Special Meeting shall be convened for its consideration. The time at which the Meeting shall be held, to be determined by the votes of the Fellows present.

52. The Fellows, when assembled in Special Meeting, shall have full power to determine all questions submitted to their consideration, but no foreign matter shall be introduced, nor any subjects discussed, of which notice has not been given in the requisition.

SECTION X.

OF THE ORDINARY MEETINGS.

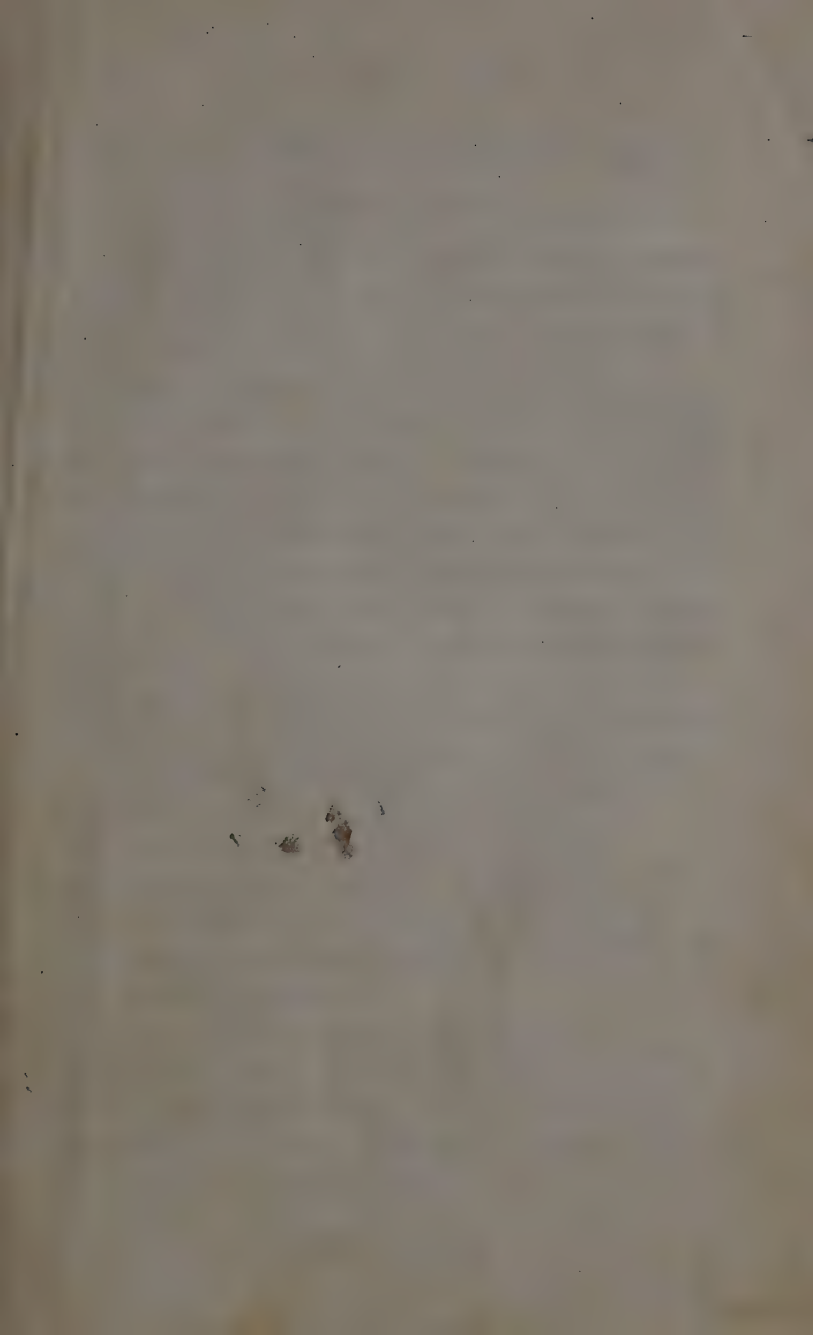
53. The Ordinary Meetings shall commence on the third Saturday in October, of which public notice shall be given by advertisement, and shall terminate on the last Saturday in April. Additional Meetings may be held during the month of May, when the Council think them necessary.

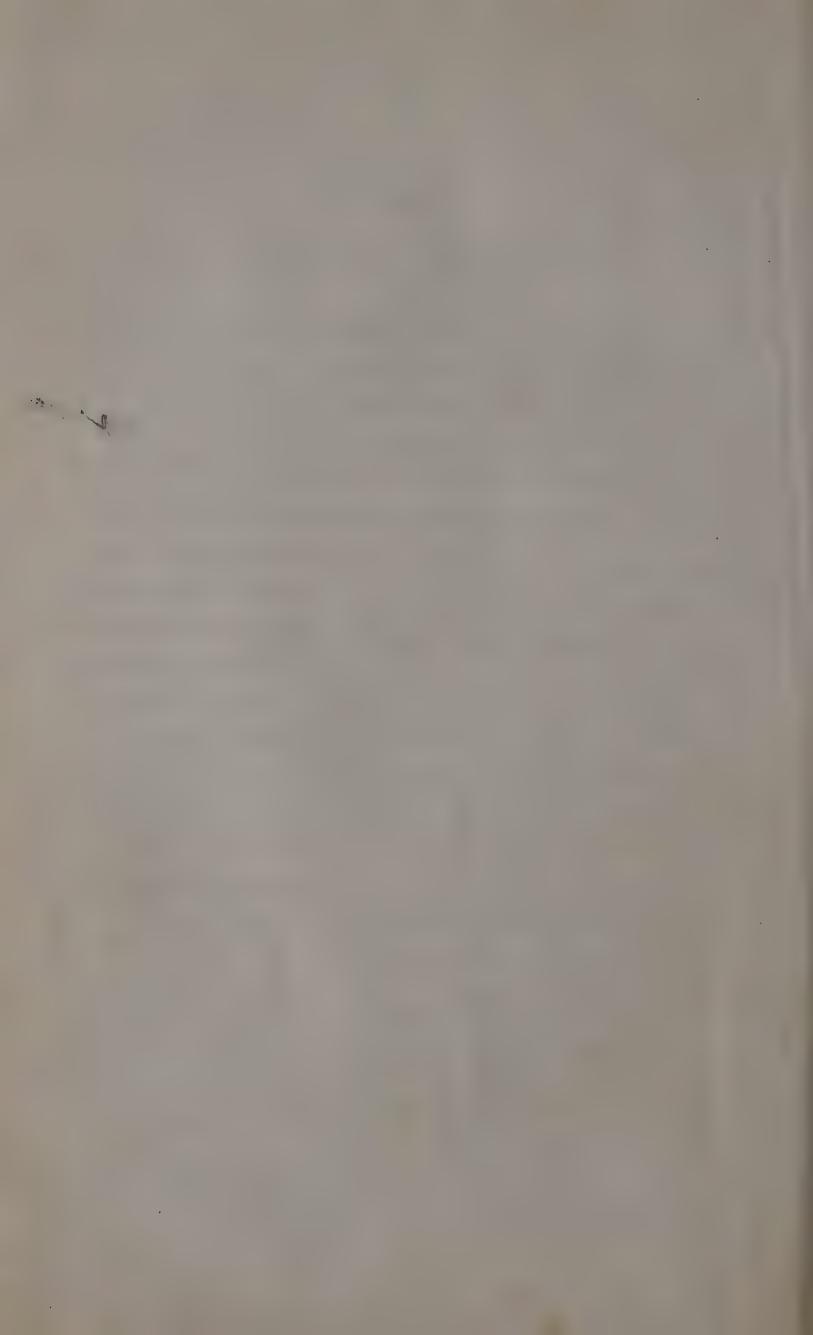
54. The Chair shall be taken at eight o'clock.

55. Each Fellow shall be required, before entering the room, to insert his name in a book kept for the purpose.

56. At the Ordinary Meetings, the business shall be conducted in the following order:—

1. The Minutes of the proceedings of the last Meeting shall be read by the Hon. Secretary, and confirmed by the President.
2. The Fellows proposed at the last Meeting shall be balloted for.
3. Certificates in favour of new Fellows shall be read, and notice shall be given that a ballot for the election will take place at the next Meeting.
4. The Fellows elected at this or former Meetings shall sign the obligation to obey the Laws, and be formally admitted by the President.
5. The names of Visitors admitted for the evening shall be read from the Chair.
6. The President shall invite the Fellows to make short communications on interesting cases, or to exhibit pathological specimens; such communications, or discussions thereon, to close at half-past eight o'clock, unless of special interest, when the President may defer the reading of the paper for the evening, till a quarter to nine o'clock.
7. The subject for the evening's discussion shall be brought forward.





8. The subject proposed for discussion at the next Meeting shall be announced.

9. At ten o'clock precisely, the President shall adjourn the Meeting.

57. Dissertations presented to the Society for discussion, shall relate only to subjects connected with Medical science, and it is expected that they shall not exceed in length what may be read in half-an-hour.

58. Papers presented to the Society, shall be read either by the author or by one of the Hon. Secretaries, and after being read, the Fellows shall be at liberty to make observations thereon. Should the subject introduced not give rise to discussion, the Fellows may, with permission of the President, make communications to the Society.

59. Any Fellow may bring before the Society a communication on any subject, consistent with the objects of the Society.

60. Fellows wishing to introduce a subject, are requested to give notice thereof, in writing, to the Hon. Secretary, stating the nature of the subject, when, if approved, the Council will appoint a time for its discussion.

61. The discussions at the Ordinary Meetings shall be strictly confined to medical and scientific subjects. All matters relating to appeals, the expulsion of Fellows, or to any other extraordinary business, shall be transacted only at Special Meetings.

62. During the discussion of any question, no Fellow shall be entitled to speak more than once on the same subject, except in explanation ; but the author of the paper then read to the Society, or the person communicating a case, has a right to reply thereon.

62. The collective sense of the Society, upon any medical or scientific question, shall not be taken, by vote or otherwise, unless notice has been given, and leave obtained at a previous Meeting.

SECTION XI.

OF VISITORS.

63. Every Fellow shall be permitted to introduce two Visitors to each Meeting.

64. The same Visitor shall not be introduced more than three times during each Session

65. The names of Visitors, with those of the Fellows introducing them, shall be written on cards, or in a book kept for that purpose; and such Visitors shall be allowed to take a part in any medical or surgical debate, but not in any question relating to the private affairs of the Society.

